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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 ERDA-05 ISO-00 ACDA-07 EA-07 OES-06 /051 W
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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4953

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 01464

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
SUBJECT: UK PROPOSAL ON ORGANIZATION OF LIST REVIEWS

REFS: A) STATE 2916, B) COCOM DOC. PROC (76) 8

SUMMARY. IN CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY DEPARTMENT, UKDEL EXPLAINED THAT 1) UK PROPOSALS WOULD NOT PREVENT SUBMISSION OF RECENT TECHNICAL DATA DURING LIST REVIEW, 2) SECONDING REQUIREMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT PROPOSALS HAD PROPER SUPPORT AND NEED NOT PROLONG REVIEW, AND 3) POINT VII WOULD ALLOW COMMITTEE TO CHANGE DATE FOR START OF ROUND II IN LIGHT OF PROGRESS MADE IN ROUND ONE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION JANUARY 14 WITH UK REGULAR DEL MICHAEL PRICE, USDEL PROBED THE POINTS RAISED IN DEPARTMENT'S REF A. CONVERSATION WAS REASONABLY SATISFACTORY, ALTHOUGH ONE POINT, DISCUSSED BELOW, REMAINED UNCLEAR.

2. PARAGRAPH II(F)(1) OF UK PROPOSAL IS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED TO BAR SUBMISSION OF NEW TECHNICAL DATA DURING LIST REVIEW, PRICE SAID. LANGUAGE IN QUESTION IS CONFIDENTIAL

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DIRECTED RATHER AT TARDY COUNTERPROPOSALS NOT CLEARLY RELATED TO FACTS OR INFORMATION ALREADY DISCUSSED. UK HAD IN MIND LAST-MINUTE COUNTERPROPOSALS BY US IN 1974 REVIEW. WHEN PRESSED, HOWEVER, ON PRECISE MEANING OF PHRASE "NEW SUBJECT MATTER", PRICE ADMITTED HE DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND IT AND SAID HE WOULD ASK LONDON TO CLARIFY IT.

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3. PRICE EXPLAINED THAT PURPOSE OF SECONDING REQUIREMENT WAS TO ENSURE IN ADVANCE THAT ALL PROPOSALS HAD "SUBSTANTIAL" SUPPORT, AND THUS TO AVOID TIME-WASTING DISCUSSION OF THOSE THAT FAILED OF ACCEPTANCE BY ANY BUT SUBMITTING DELEGATION. HE READILY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS REQUIREMENT COULD LEAD TO BARGAINING BUT DID NOT THINK, APPARENTLY, THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT DRAWBACK. DISCUSSIONS ON SECONDING COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE SUBMISSION, AND IN CAPITALS, NOT NECESSARILY WITH EXPERTS PRESENT, LIKE BILATERALS. THAT HAVE NORMALLY PRECEDED PAST LIST REVIEWS. A SECONDING DELEGATION WOULD INDEED BE BOUND TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE; HENCE PRESUMABLY, SAID PRICE, IT WOULD NOT WISH TO SUBMIT A COUNTERPROPOSAL OF ITS OWN. BUT IT COULD ALSO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS IF DISCUSSION INDICATED THEY WOULD ENHANCE ITS PROSPECTS OF ACCEPTANCE BY ALL DELS. HE MINIMIZED THE DANGER SUGGESTED BY USDEL OF A MINI-LIST REVIEW BEFORE THE LIST REVIEW.

4. ON LAST POINT RAISED IN REF A (PARA 3), PRICE EXPLAINED THAT PURPOSE OF POINT VII IS TO ALLOW COMMITTEE TO MOVE STARTING DATE FOR ROUND TWO (TENTATIVELY AGREED BEFORE ROUND ONE) FORWARD OR BACK IN LIGHT OF ENDING DATE OF ROUND ONE, AND OF PROGRESS MADE IN THAT ROUND.

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5. USDEL COMMENT: AFTER CONVERSATION JUST REPORTED, USDEL FEARS MORE THAN EVER THAT PROPOSED SECONDING

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REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT WORKABLE. THEY MAY BE WORKABLE FOR PROPOSALS AIMED MERELY AT RAISING, LOWERING, OR OTHERWISE MODIFYING AN EXISTING PARAMETER. BUT MORE COMPLEX PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE BASIC CONCEPT OF EMBARGO COVERAGE OF AN ITEM, OR EXTEND COVERAGE OF EQUIPMENT NOT NOW COVERED, MIGHT WITHER ON THE VINE FOR

DISCUSSIONS TO OBTAIN A SECONDER FOR SUCH PROPOSALS MIGHT BE FAR MORE TIME CONSUMING THAN PRICE ADMITS.

6. WITH THIS EXCEPTION, USDEL REMAINS OF OPINION THAT REST OF UK PROPOSALS ARE WORKABLE (SUBJECT TO ANY NEEDED CLARIFICATION, AS IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE) AND WOULD FACILITATE FUTURE LIST REVIEWS. TO REJECT THEM, OR ANY SIGNIFICANT PART OF THEM, WOULD INEVITABLY RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO US GOOD FAITH AND POSSIBILITY OF HAVING ANOTHER LIST REVIEW AT ALL. ON OTHER HAND, AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHETHER THE WILL EXISTS ON THE US SIDE TO COMPLY WITH DEADLINES AFTER AGREEING TO THEM. IN 1975, AFTER AGREEING TO DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND COUNTERPROPOSALS, AND AFTER GIVING
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ASSURANCES OF ITS INTENTION TO LIVE UP TO THEM, THE US VIOLATED THEM REPEATEDLY. THE QUESTION IS,WILL THE US LIVE UP TO FUTURE UNDERTAKINGS?
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Message Attributes

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